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Longbenton
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

County of Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR

1955

OF

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

AND

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY

C.R.S.H., Certified Meat Inspector

Senior Sanitary Inspector



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OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Officer</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>
Medical Officer of Health...	... WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	... THEODORE CRAIG	M.B., Ch.B.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	... WILLIAM N. LOCKEY	C.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert., Sanitary Science Cert., R.S.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	... ROBERT P. BRUCE	M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert.

Longbenton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM,

for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
 LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

Mid-year 1955 figures from the Registrar General's Report show an increase in population of 4,910 as compared with mid-year 1954. This increase can be explained in the main by the re-housing of Newcastle tenants in the new Longbenton Estate, 905 new houses having been occupied during the year.

Births show an increase of 107. Deaths show an increase of 14. Infantile Mortality Rate shows an increase from 25.41 per 1,000 live births to 35.18.

The principal causes of death were :—

Diseases of the Heart	...	...	...	131
Cancer of all types	...	...	...	51
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	45

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Details are given on pages 11 and 12.

MILK.

The milk supplies were maintained satisfactorily in quantity and quality. All milk retailed in the Urban District is pasteurised, sterilised, or produced from Tuberculin tested herds.

HOUSING.

1,214 houses were built during 1955, 173 private enterprise and 1,041 by the local authorities. The picture of overcrowding has shown from year to year an appreciable improvement. Approximately 490 families still need houses of their own at 1/3/56

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., through the company's mains. The supply has been satisfactory. 65 samples were taken. No case of illness resulted from consumption of water.

Chemical analysis are made by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

A scheme for the provision of inside water supply to houses previously drawing from standpipes in the street has been carried out and the number now with such an outside water supply are at a minimum. Most of these are included in prospective clearance areas.

I wish to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Council for their kind encouragement throughout the year, and Mr. Lockey, Senior Sanitary Inspector, and the Staff for their great help and loyalty.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. CUNNINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	6,786
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-year 1955	37,290
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/55) according to Rate Book	10,903
Rateable Value (31/3/56)	£198,395
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1955/56) ...	£720

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief industry is coal mining, with the exception of the residential area of Benton and Forest Hall.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

			Male	Female	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	322	317	639
Illegitimate	...	...	7	8	15
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			329	325	654
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	8	8	16
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			8	8	16

Comparability Factors:—

Births 0.97

Deaths 1.18

Live Births per 1,000 Population ... 17.27 corrected 16.75

Still births per 1,000 Live and Still Births 28.35 „ 27.50

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the
estimated population 8.83 „ 10.41

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births)
Puerperal Sepsis	1	1.49
Other Maternal Causes	1	1.49
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	2.98
	<hr/>	<hr/>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR
OF AGE

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	13	9	22
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
					<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>23</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS
OF AGE

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	11	8	19
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
					<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20</u>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS OF INFANTS UNDER
1 YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	35.18
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				34.49
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				66.66

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS OF INFANTS UNDER
4 WEEKS OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	30.58
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				29.05
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				66.66

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	51
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1955.

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	189	141
1—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...						2
2—Other forms of Tuberculosis	...					—	—
3—Syphilitic diseases	...					1	1
4—Diphtheria...	...					—	—
5—Whooping Cough	...					—	—
6—Meningococcal infections...	...					—	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	...					1	—
8—Measles	...					—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases	...					—	—
10—Cancer of stomach	...					9	4
11—Cancer of lung and bronchus	...					8	—
12—Cancer of breast	...					—	2
13—Cancer of uterus	...					—	2
14—Cancer of all other sites	...					11	15
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...					4	1
16—Diabetes	...					1	—
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system	...					24	21
18—Coronary disease, angina	...					32	13
19—Hypertension with heart disease	...					5	6
20—Other heart disease	...					31	30
21—Other circulatory disease	...					4	10
22—Influenza	...					1	1
23—Pneumonia	...					12	2
24—Bronchitis	...					12	1
25—Other diseases of respiratory system	...					4	—
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...					—	—
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...					1	1
28—Nephritis and nephrosis	...					1	3
29—Hyperplasia of prostate	...					2	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...					—	2
31—Congenital malformations	...					3	1
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...					9	16
33—Motor vehicle accidents	...					4	1
34—All other accidents	...					5	1
35—Suicide	...					4	5
36—Homicide and operations of war	...					—	—

There is no evidence of any excessive or unusual mortality during the year.

I have no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that conditions of occupation or environment have exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of adults. There is, however, evidence that the general health and physique of children, both of pre-school and school age, are steadily improving.

SECTION B.

1. (i) Public Health Officials : see page 2.
- (ii) (a) Laboratory facilities are now available at the General Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Government Buildings Blakelaw, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- (b) The Ambulance Service is under the jurisdiction of the Northumberland County Council. As from the 1st November, 1952, the Ambulance Service for Longbenton Urban District Council is centred in Wideopen Depot which also supplies the ambulance needs of the South Area Northumberland County Council.
- (c) Nursing in the home is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.
- (d) Scaffold Hill Hospital is the only hospital in the area. One pavilion in Scaffold Hill Hospital was set aside for the reception of general infectious diseases (30 beds), but this accommodation for infectious disease cases was withdrawn in November 1955. Infectious disease cases are now accommodated at Walkergate, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Moor Park Hospital, North Shields. One pavilion (30 beds) is set aside for the care of aged sick women and one pavilion (19 beds) for the care of aged sick men. This hospital is administered by South East Hospital Management Committee (Northumberland) on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board and I act on the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board's Staff in the dual appointment of Senior Hospital Medical Officer.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care.

No action was necessary under the above Section.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

This service is operated and controlled by the Northumberland County Council.

SECTION C.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

- (i) The water supply for the area during the last year has been satisfactory. All the water for the district is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. The mains supplying Annitsford, Dudley, Seaton

Burn and Wideopen are still the property of the Longbenton Urban District Council, whilst all other mains are the property of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.

- (ii) *Drainage and Sewerage*—Conditions remain the same.
- 2. (4) *Rivers and Streams*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (ii) *Public Cleansing*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (iv) *Shops and Offices*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (v) *Camping Sites*.—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (vi) *Smoke Abatement*—No official action has been necessary. See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (vii) *Swimming Baths and Pools*—There are no swimming baths in the area.
- (viii) *Eradication of the Bed Bug*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (ix) *Head Lice*—No special treatment was given.
Body Lice—No special treatment was given.

SCHOOLS.

The schools in the area are each provided with a sufficient suitable water supply from the mains supply. Periodical inspections are made of all schools.

SECTION D.

HOUSING. PROBLEM FAMILIES. (*Children neglected in the home*).

It is gratifying to record that most families rehoused from Tinkler's Square, hatted squatter's camp, have since rehousing been removed from the Register of Problem Families. The tremendous improvement in the condition and relationship of these families has proved how wise this Council was in rehousing people who seemed at one time to be incapable of helping themselves. Their new environment and the kindly advice of Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors has completely altered their outlook on life.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) *Milk Supply*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (b) *Meat and other Foods*—See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (c) *Adulteration*—This service is administered by the County Council.
- (d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food*—Samples of milk and ice cream are taken for Bacteriological Examination by this Authority. These samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratory.
- (e) *Nutrition*—Talks were given to young mothers at Child Welfare Clinics.
- (f) *Shellfish (Molluscan)*—There are no shellfish beds or layings in this area. Shellfish is rarely sold in this area.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table gives the numbers and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year :—

DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED										Hospital	Deaths
	Age Group											
	At all Ages (1954)	Under 1 year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over	Age not known			
Scarlet Fever	22 (25)	—	—	6	15	1	—	—	—	1	—	
Whooping Cough	108 (183)	5	30	23	45	4	1	—	—	—	—	
Measles	761 (72)	26	187	225	316	4	2	1	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	7 (18)	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	—	14	
Dysentery	35 (—)	—	4	7	8	1	3	12	—	1	—	
Erysipelas	6 (3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid	2 (1)	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Polio-myelitis	1 (4)	—	1P	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Meningococcal Infection	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	942 (308)	31	222	262	386	10	6	25	—	3	15	

The following table shows the number of bacteriological specimens from the Longbenton Area examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, during 1955.

Examination Requested.	Positive	Negative.	Total.
Vincent's Angina	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Haemolytic Strep.	—	5	5
Tuberculosis Sputa	—	2	2
Enteric and Dysentery Groups ...	132	194	326
Clinical Specimens	—	3	3
	132	206	338

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.—One case of paralytic was notified, one boy aged 5 years, a visitor from Ireland notified in 1954 died in hospital in 1955.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notifications show a decrease of 3 cases.

PNEUMONIA.—Notifications show a decrease of 11 cases. The notifications of cases do not tally with the number of certified deaths. Local Practitioners and hospitals still do not notify all cases of pneumonia.

MEASLES.—There is an increase in the number of cases notified, 761 in 1955, as against 72 in 1954. The epidemic of Measles was general to the whole country.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There were 108 cases notified in 1955 as against 183 in 1954.

FOOD POISONING.—There were no cases of Food Poisoning in 1955.

DYSENTERY.—35 cases of Dysentery were notified, all of mild type with no deaths. The families affected showed great co-operation with the Health Department Officials and responded most satisfactorily to the advice and precautionary measures laid down.

VENEREAL DISEASE.—Full support has been given to the Northumberland County Council in their propaganda against Venereal Disease. Posters have been published and handbills distributed and full information as to the places and times of the Clinics supplied to enquirers at this Public Health Department.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.—No action was necessary under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, with regard to persons employed in the milk trade, nor in the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1955.—The following Tables are self explanatory :—

	CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	3		1					
5 to 14 years	10	7	1					
15 to 24 years	9	18		2				
25 to 44 years	32	36		2				
45 to 64 years	7			1		2		
65 years and over	1					—		
Age not known	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	62	62	2	5		2		

The notification of cases of Tuberculosis in the area has been satisfactory. No action has been necessary in any case of neglect or refusal to notify.

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER
as at 31st December, 1955.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1.1.55.	234	214	448	48	47	95	543
New Cases	16	13	29	1	2	3	32
Cases transferred into area	45	47	92	1	3	4	96
Cases Reinstated	1	2	3				3
Cases Removed	14	13	27	1	3	4	31
Cases on Register at 31.12.55.	282	263	545	49	49	98	643

B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.—171 children were protected against Tuberculosis by vaccination.

I have at every Public Health Committee Meeting drawn the attention of the Members to the number of cases of Tuberculosis of lungs transferred from Newcastle upon Tyne to Benton Lane Estate which re-houses Newcastle residents. Total number of new cases was 128 and of these 96 were transfers from the Tuberculosis Registers of other Authorities.

Longbenton Urban District Council.
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the Sanitary and Refuse Collection Departments for the year 1955.

A Public Enquiry was held relative to two Compulsory Purchase Orders and three Clearance Orders:—

Compulsory Purchase Orders.	No. of houses.
No. 39, Northern Terrace & Ritson's Buildings, Dudley.	41
No. 42, Front Street, Annitsford.	10
Clearance Orders.	
No. 41, Front Street, Seaton Burn.	8
No. 43, Weetslade Terrace, Burradon.	4
No. 44, Fryer's Terrace, Burradon.	16

In addition, seven houses were demolished under formal action as Individual Unfit Houses and seven were closed under formal action.

Details, showing the numbers of families re-housed during 1955 and the number still remaining on the Housing Application Lists, have been kindly supplied by the Housing Manager and included herein.

HOUSING.

The following table shows the numbers of houses allocated to the various types of applicants:—

POINTS SCHEME.

Categories	A	B	C	D & OP	Total
	29	1	59	49	138
OTHERS—					
Exchanges	...	...	...	...	186
Shun Clearance	...	...	...	...	66
Eviction Orders and Special Allocation					7
					397

The following table shows the fluctuation of the number of applicants for Council Houses between 1/4/49 and 1/3/56:—

CATEGORY 'A'

Applicants with homes
of their own and resi-
ding in overcrowded
conditions ...

282 261 255 212 236 205 116 98 86

CATEGORY 'B'

Applicants without
homes of their own
and residing in over-
crowded conditions

225 240 213 103 150 138 24 15 6

CATEGORY 'C'

Applicants without
homes of their own
but not overcrowded

449 481 503 376 446 532 465 550 484

CATEGORY 'D'

Normal applicants
desiring improved
housing accommoda-
tion but not over-
crowded ...

... 477 575 615 582 666 740 717 761 722

1433 1557 1586 1273 1498 1615 1322 1424 1298

REPAIR OF PRIVATELY OWNED HOUSES.

Landlords of tenanted property appear diffident to take advantage of the increase in rents permitted under the Housing Rents and Repairs Act, 1954, if the number of applicants for Certificates of Disrepair can be taken as any guide of the number who have given notice to the tenants of such increase. During the year only two applications were made for such certificates.

With the further advance in building trade wages and building materials owners are finding it still more difficult to have repairs carried out and there does not appear to be any return of tradesmen to the jobbing builders.

It will be noted from the details given under tables 1, 2 and 3, that we have been able to have work carried out at 163 houses, however, without the service of Statutory Notices, but 17 notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, relative to 31 houses, none of which were repaired by the owners, 21 of the 31, together with 8 outstanding from 1954, were repaired by the Council in default, making a total of 29

houses wherein we had to prepare specifications and invite tenders to do the work in default. Notices were served under the Public Health Act in 48 instances when all but one were complied with by the owners.

HOUSING ACT, 1949. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Applications were received for Improvement Grants to 11 houses, 2 were not approved and 2 of the 9 approved have not proceeded with the work. It is to be noted that of the 9 approved, one only was a tenanted house, the remainder being owner-occupiers.

TABLE 1.

	Number of Inspections during year.	Number of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws.	Number of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied by Informal Action	Number of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Statutory Notice	Legal Proceedings
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HOUSING—							
Structural Defects
Defective Food Store
Dampness
Overcrowding
WATER SUPPLY—							
Insufficient
Unsatisfactory
DRAINAGE							
Insufficient
Unsatisfactory
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—							
Defective
Insufficient
Food Premises
Shops Act
Dairies and Milk Samples
Slaughter Houses
Tents, Vans, and Sheds
Offensive Trades
Factories Act
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles
Keeping of Animals
Offensive Accumulations
Smoke Nuisances
TOTAL	3611	908	260	586	48	354	—

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Oc'p'ers P'cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	5	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	54	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	9	10	1	—
Total	51	72	3	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp'ctor	By H.M. Insp'ctor	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—	—

TABLE II.

HOUSING.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1955.

Houses Completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
By Local Authority	136	—	136
By any other Housing Authority	905	—	905
By private persons	—	173	173
Total			1214

Total number of Inhabited Houses in District, 10,903.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

A. FORMAL ACTION.

- (1) Number of houses demolished during 1955 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action 7
 (Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) ... —
- (2) Number of houses *closed* but not demolished as a result of formal action 7

B. INFORMAL ACTION.

- (1) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above —

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during 1955 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

- (a) As a result of Informal Action 163
 (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ... 48
 (c) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 30

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS — HOUSING ACT, 1949.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| | Number of separate houses |
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year | 11 |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority ... | 2 |
| (c) Applications approved | 9 |
| (d) Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme | 72 |

TABLE III.
SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—			
Privies and Privy Ashpits abolished	10	—	10
" " " " " repaired	—	—	—
Pail-Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water-Closets provided	10	—	10
Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A. 1936, S. 47	10	—	10
Sanitary Bins provided	10	—	10
Sanitary Bins renewed	58	11	69
DRAINAGE—			
New Drains constructed	11	4	15
Drains repaired or reconstructed	44	1	45
Additional Gullies provided	12	4	16
Old Gullies replaced	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided	1	6	7
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired	13	1	14
Scullery Waste Pipes trapped	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed	1	8	9

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The proportion of houses now drawing water from common taps in the street, as compared with those with inside supplies, has been further reduced by the number of houses which have been built, all having inside supplies and the number which have been demolished where the supply was drawn from standpipes. These will be further reduced next year when the houses which have been included in Clearance Areas have been demolished. It is expected by the end of 1956 drawing of water from standpipes in the street will be a thing of the past.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

A total of 65 samples of water were submitted for Bacteriological Examination to the Public Health Laboratory during the year and, whilst the greater majority of the samples as will be seen from the table, shows the water to be of the highest standard, there were, however, in two areas, namely Longbenton Estate and Benton, a number of samples which did not come up to the required standard.

A great deal of time was spent in conjunction with officials from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., in trying to trace the cause of the contamination. It was eventually traced to local contamination in the mains, which were rectified by flushing of the affected mains and, in one instance where there was a dead end to the main, a hydrant was installed so that

regular flushing of this main could be carried out. Further samples from these particular mains have shown the water to be up to the standard required.

Highly satisfactory	...	42
Satisfactory	...	15
Suspicious	...	6
Unsatisfactory	...	2
<hr/>		
Total	...	65
<hr/>		

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Our records show that 10 of the remaining 12 dry closets in the area were converted to the water carriage system during the year, the remainder are on farms isolated from a sewer.

In 46 instances, informal notices were served with regard to repairs to W.C's and in 2, Statutory Notices had to be served, at one of which the Council had to do the work in default, plus one outstanding from 1954.

ASHBINS.

Informal action was taken for the replacement of 58 defective bins. It was, however, necessary in eight instances to serve Statutory Notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, to secure the provision of new bins. In all instances the Council decided that the notices were to be served on the owners of the properties.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No cases of pollution of streams or watercourses were found during the year.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. *Section 50, National Assistance Act, 1948.*

It was not necessary for the Department to take action in this respect during the year.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

The presence of vermin in both private and Council houses continues to decrease and during the year it was only necessary in the case of two Council houses to treat for the presence of bed bugs.

By far the most common infestation was that of the cockroach, five private houses and nine Council houses were treated.

In the case of fleas, it was necessary to treat three private houses and four Council houses.

Even though the number of houses found to be infested with vermin is very small, the Council continues with its policy of precaution in Council houses by spraying all furniture with a solution of D.D.T. in Kerosene prior to it being moved into a

Council house or an exchange from one Council house to another. In this respect a total of 292 houses were inspected—few were found to be infested with vermin.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

The licences held by the occupiers of the three trailer vans stationed in Fisher Lane, Seaton Burn, were not renewed. New applications were made for two caravans, one stationed at Green Lane, Killingworth and one at Scaffold Hill Farm, Forest Hall. These were granted.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Bye-laws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in the Open Air.

Routine inspections of food premises and to vans retailing throughout the district took place during the year. A large number of the latter are at present retailing on the Benton Lane Estate, especially that part of the estate which has not yet been provided with a shopping centre. It was unnecessary to take formal action for the enforcement of the bye-laws.

CONTRAVENTION OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

It was necessary during the year to report one instance of grease in bread. The Council decided to take legal proceedings and a conviction was obtained.

TABLE IV.
FOOD INSPECTION.

Unsound Food				Sur-rendered	Seized	Legal Pro-ceedings
1.	Beef (Home-Killed)	...	stones	402 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—
2.	Beef (Imported)	...	"	—	—	—
3.	Mutton (Home-Killed)	...	"	45 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—
4.	Mutton (Imported)	...	"	—	—	—
5.	Pork (Home-Killed)	...	"	226	—	—
6.	Pork (Imported)...	...	"	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
7.	Game	...	lbs.	—	—	—
8.	Poultry	...	"	—	—	—
9.	Fish	...	"	—	—	—
10.	Fruit	...	"	—	—	—
11.	Canned Goods	...	Tins	346	—	—
12.	Bacon	...	lbs.	—	—	—
13.	Cheese	...	"	—	—	—
14.	Butter	...	"	—	—	—
15.	Lard	...	"	—	—	—
16.	Eggs (frozen and powdered)	...	"	—	—	—
17.	Flour	...	"	—	—	—
18.	Sugar	...	"	—	—	—
19.	Other Foods	...	"	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924—1952.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the district, at three of which regular slaughtering takes place.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNATIONS.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	919	93	88	3813	2053	—
Number Inspected	919	93	88	3813	2053	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	—	4	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	331	13	—	30	297	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	36.22%	15.05%	—	0.88%	14.56%	—
Total weight of meat and offal condemned (lbs.)	3651	583	—	641	1828	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organs were condemned	34	—	—	—	52	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.81%	—	—	—	2.63%	—
Total weight of meat and offal condemned (lbs.)	1404	—	—	—	1336	—
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following are the registrations now kept by the Council under the above regulations :—

Number of persons registered as distributors ... 87

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district 1

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk retailed within the district 6

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" and "T.T. Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district ... 16

Number of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district 4

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" and "T.T. Pasteurised" in relation to milk retailed within the district ... 13

Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district 43

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises outside the district ... 4

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Samples of milk from each supply were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination and Biological Test. The following tables show the results of the sampling for the year.

T.T. RAW MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	$\frac{0}{0}$ Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	5	1	6	83.3
B. Tuberculosis ...	6	—	6	100

PASTEURISED AND T.T. (PASTEURISED) MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	$\frac{0}{0}$ Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	23	3	26	88.48
Phosphatase Test ...	25	1	26	96.16

STERILISED AND T.T. (STERILISED) MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Turbidity Test	4	—	4	100

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.

During the summer months regular samples of ice cream are taken, trying as far as possible to have samples examined from each different manufacturer retailing within the district, though some difficulty is experienced in taking regular samples from the occasional vendor travelling through the district with a van.

There are no producers of ice cream in the district.

The table shows the number of samples taken and the Bacteriological grading of such samples.

Producers.	No. of Samples.	Results and Grades.
A	4	1, 1, 1, 1.
B	1	1.
C	3	1, 1, 1.
D	1	1.
E	1	1.
F	4	1, 1, 1, 1.
G	3	1, 3, 1.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The Council's fleet of seven refuse vehicles was found to be sufficient to give a satisfactory service throughout the year. During the holiday period in the summer months, each team has a fortnight's holiday, therefore, the vehicles are reduced to six for a period of 12 weeks and during this time the mechanic gives a thorough overhaul to all machines so as to obviate any of them having to be kept off the road during the winter period when refuse is much heavier.

We were able to maintain regular collection services of at least once per week in the residential districts and twice in the mining areas. In all 6,759 loads of refuse were collected at an average weight of 3 Tons.

STATISTICS.

I beg to append below statistics with reference to the refuse collected. The figures are based upon the estimated population for mid-year 1955, 37,290.

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY.

Estimated quantity removed...	...	...	20,271 tons.
Approximate average weight per house	...	...	1.85 tons.
Average quantity per house per annum.	...	...	5.55 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	...	...	29.7 cwts.
Total cost of collection (Refuse, Salvage and Kitchen Waste)	...	...	£ 19,572
Cost of Disposal	...	...	5,317
Total Scavenging Costs	...	...	24,889
Less Income from Salvage, Tips, Bins, etc.			4,394
Nett Scavenging Cost			20,495

UNIT COSTS.

(Income from Salvage, excluding Kitchen Waste, is credited to Disposal).

	Collection		Disposal		Total	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Gross cost per ton, labour only	11	4	2	9	14	1
Gross cost per ton, transport only	7	5	—	4	7	9
Nett cost (all expenditure)	18	10	1	4½	20	2½
<hr/>						
	£		£		£	
Nett cost per 1,000 population	512		37		549	
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	1701		124		1825	
<hr/>						
					£	s. d.
Cost per Establishment ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	16 6
Cost per head population ... ..	...	...	...	...	11	0
Cost on rates in the £ ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	4.4
Average cost for emptying of one bin			...	...		9.2

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Owing to the very heavy nature of the refuse collected due to the high ash content and also to the scattered nature of the district, three separate tips have to be used. These are as follows :—

1. *Burradon Quarry.* The refuse from Annitsford, Burradon and Dudley is tipped in this quarry and there is sufficient space for a further two or three years. The Council, however, have considered what steps are to be taken when the space in this quarry has been used up and negotiations have been opened to purchase low lying land west of Burradon.

2. *Wideopen Quarry.* This quarry, although there is sufficient space for approximately one year, when it will be filled to the level which will be suitable for the making of the quarry into a park or open space. Tipping takes place on alternate times on the Burradon and Wideopen quarries and a man is in attendance. The tipping is carried out on strictly controlled lines but the refuse has such a high ash content that no mechanical aid is necessary to level and control.
3. *Old Moor Colliery, Whitley Road.* This tip is being used by Gosforth Urban District Council and ourselves taking the whole of the refuse from Gosforth Urban District and from the part of Longbenton Area south of Killingworth Station. The present site is sufficient for another year and following this another area of 15/20 acres may be made available although the haul would be increased slightly.

The tips are treated regularly for rat infestation and any outbreaks of fire are dealt with immediately.

The tips are sprayed with Gammazene at frequent intervals so as to prevent flies, cockroaches and crickets.

TRADE REFUSE.

Contracts have been made with shopkeepers etc., for an annual charge payable in advance, at approximately 3d. per bin, for the removal of trade refuse.

SALVAGE.

During the year our collection of waste paper was increased by 79 tons, the amount of kitchen waste, however, was reduced to 63 tons, this is due to the School Meals Service now selling kitchen waste to private collectors.

Appended below are the weights and values of the materials sold :—

				Tons. cwts.		Value.		
						£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	368	0	2984	0	0
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	63	0	297	0	0
Rags ...	...	...	...	3	0	69	0	0
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	9	0	27	0	0
Total				443	0	3377	0	0

KITCHEN WASTE.

The following shows the costs of the working of the scheme and the revenue received from the kitchen waste. It will be

noted that there is a £99 0s. 0d. loss on the scheme but the 63 tons of material would have had to be collected and disposed of as normal refuse had it not been collected in with the scheme.

	£	s.	d.
Loan Charges	142	1	0
Tax and Insurance on vehicles	5	7	4
Wages and On cost	237	11	1
Repairs and Sundries	11	18	1
	<hr/>		
	£396	17	6
	£	s.	d.
Revenue from Kitchen Waste	£297	0	0

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Regular inspections and treatments are made of refuse tips and sewerage disposal works. Allotments and small-holdings in the district are kept under strict observation and, generally speaking, excellent co-operation is obtained from the respective owners wherever infestations of rats are found.

The sewers in the area are treated regularly in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations and in all sections, with the exception of Scaton Burn, the sewers are, generally speaking, free from rats.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :

Type of Property					No. of Properties Inspected	No. of Inspections Made	No. treated by L.A.
Local Authority					36	152	26
Business					62	138	24
HOUSES	L.A.				135	253	80
	Private				215	438	113
Agri-cultural	Allotments				201	346	37
	Others				1	1	-
Totals					650	1328	280

Bodies recovered : 202 Rats and 31 Mice.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Particulars of samples of Food and Drugs taken in the Longbenton Urban District during the year 1955, appended below, were kindly provided by Mr. C. J. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector. All the samples taken, with the exception of one, were declared by the Public Analyst to be genuine.

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES.

Sample	No. Taken	Genuine	Adulterated
Arrowroot Biscuits	1	1	—
Beef Sausages	6	6	—
Beef and Vegetables	1	1	—
Best Scotch Beer	1	1	—
Blackcurrent and Aniseed Balsam	1	1	—
Bread	1	1	—
Bramble Jam	1	1	—
Brown Sugar	1	1	—
Brown Bread	1	1	—
Butter	1	1	—
Butter Brazils	1	1	—
Buttermilk Soap	1	1	—
Cambridge Sausages	1	1	—
Coconut Creams	1	1	—
Chicken Soup	1	1	—
Chocolate Crunch	1	1	—
Corned Beef	1	1	—
Malt Vinegar	2	1	1
Malt Loaf	1	1	—
Meat Rissoles	1	1	—
Mincemeat	1	1	—
Meat Pie	1	1	—
Non-Alcoholic Cordial	1	1	—
Pease Pudding	1	1	—
Peppermint Oil	1	1	—
Pineapple Juice	1	1	—
Pork Sausages	5	5	—
Processed Cheese	1	1	—
Rice Pudding	1	1	—
Rum	1	1	—
Sausage Roll	1	1	—
Savaloy	1	1	—
Self Raising Flour	2	2	—
Scotch Broth... ..	1	1	—
Cream Caramels	1	1	—
Sponge Mix	1	1	—
Dripping	2	2	—
Steak and Kidney Pie	1	1	—
Fish Cakes	1	1	—
Steak Pudding	1	1	—
Fish Dressing	1	1	—
Sterilised Cream	1	1	—
Flour	1	1	—
Sultanas	1	1	—
Ground Almonds	5	5	—
Table Jelly	1	1	—

Sample					No. Taken	Genuine	Adulterated
Granulate Gelatine	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Tea	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Golden Marzipan	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Tomato Soup	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Gin	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Honey	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Vanilla Fudge	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Walnut Toffee	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Kitchen Fire Toffee	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Wensleydale Cheese	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Lard	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
White Olive Beauty Soap	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Lemon Drops	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Whisky	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
White Pepper	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Marzipan	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Wholewheat Cereal	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Wholemeal Bread	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
					88	87	1

No. of Milk Samples, 100.

No. of other samples, 88.

No. of Prosecutions, 1—Vinegar.

No. of Cautions, 1—Pork Sausages.

A butcher was cautioned for selling Pork Sausages which were found to contain preservative, the presence of which had not been declared to the purchaser.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The Atmospheric Pollution Records for the year ended 31st December, 1955, taken by the Scientific Department, National Coal Board, at The Grange, Benton, have been kindly supplied by Dr. Jones, the Divisional Chief Scientist.

The deposits show considerable increase on 1954 but the three previous years, 1951/2/3 were 236, 208 and 197 respectively and it would appear that last year was comparatively low.

Rainfall	...	...	...	20 inches.
Insoluble Deposit	...	...	...	128 tons per sq. mile.
Soluble Deposit	...	...	...	63 tons per sq. mile.
Total Solid Deposit	...	...	...	191 tons per sq. mile.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to Mr. R. P. Bruce, Additional Sanitary Inspector, and the Clerical Staff of the Department for their loyalty and co-operation throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. N. LOCKEY,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

